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## The Oxford Democrat.

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**S. R. HUTCHINS,**

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April 1871.

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Nov 5:47

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## Poetry.

[For the Oxford Democrat.]  
JANUARY THOUGHTS.

I've been thinking to-day, with what rapid wings  
Time bears away our most cherished things—  
No object stops for our eager gaze;  
The early beams turn to sun-set rays;  
And, while we're hailing the morning light,  
We may sadly say, 'tis night, 'tis night.

And yet, how time, as it passes on,  
Brings back to us something that was gone!  
With every returning year, some pain,  
Some grief comes back to be borne again;  
Some joy, forgotten, springs up to view,  
And we live a happy hour anew.

These memories of the dying past,  
With what power they cling to the very last!  
They are graves deep with an iron pen,  
And a strength impossible to men.  
What a truth they teach to the human soul,  
That it cannot die, tho' the ages roll!

The year begins—may its memories be  
Precious and sweet through eternity.  
No act of ours, hereafter bring  
To the cheek a blush, to the heart a sting;  
But our deeds, whether lowly or sublime,  
Be such as shall brighten good with time.

BUCKFIELD, Jan. 13th, 1872.

## Select Story.

[From Arthur's Home Magazine.]  
OUR AFGHAN.

A GIRL'S STORY.

BY GUSSE.

Last winter five girls agreed to form a sort of "co-operative" association, and together, knit a pretty, warm woolen afghan, as a "Christmas" for "the mother," who was growing to love her after-luncheon doze on the lounge. After consultation on the matter, we finally decided that each of us should take one stripe and make it all herself, and when the presentation was made, to hand in with the afghan our written "experiences" of all the little adventures that happened, or the thoughts we "crooned" over our balls and needles. At first we all wanted the scarlet stripe. "It was such a becoming color to 'light up' our dark 'afternoon dresses,'" Fan said. But Lou, the oldest, told us we must "draw lots, and have no disturbance." So she wrote down all the colors on five strips of paper, and we each drew "our stripe." Lou's fell purple, Nell's yellow, Fan's scarlet, Kate's green, while the great white "snowball" was left to me. And here are our little stories "woven in wool."

### THE PURPLE STRIPE.

I began mine in the bay window. It rained hard all day, and all the sky hung low, so that the tops of the tallest trees opposite seemed half hid and shrouded in the cloudy mist. The street looked desolate and deserted—only now and then a passer by would break into the little town the pattering rain sang on the window, and with the echo of his hurrying feet made me look up from my stitches. I thought of all the darkness and dreariness there is in the wide world—"into how many lives the rain does fall"—and I wondered if the sun shining somewhere behind his screen knew how desolate the earth was without his cheering light. And I thought so it would be if we had no glorious light to shine within our hearts, when the clouds of trouble and distress made everything dark, and that just as the sun was somewhere behind the rain, just so was God always behind our clouds, and would shine on us sometime. While I knit and thought, a ring at the bell disturbed me, and presently Nora brought in Miss Berry, who, you know, has for a long time been striving to lead me in the "right path," according to her ideas. I was provoked to see her—I couldn't help feeling so—I knew I was doomed now to hear one of her homilies on my "wicked state," and as I don't believe in her goodness, I knew my quilts would rise.

Insisting upon my not calling any one, she began: "Ah, my dear, I see you are making something for the Heathen Missionary Society Fair. You are right. It is a noble work."  
"Yes," I mischievously answered, "but this article is for a 'Home Mission,' for the benefit of an aged lady whom I know to be very worthy."  
"Indeed, my child, I am pleased to see you interested in any mission for the cause. Ah, if you would only listen to me, and throw aside all the silly pleasures of this life, and gird on the armor of a true Christian, renouncing all the pomps and vanities of this wicked world!"  
"But, Miss Berry," I interrupted, "I do not think a true Christian need renounce the world and its pleasures. God gave them to us for our enjoyment."  
"Ah!" she sighed, "it is but a vale of tears, an empty hollow show."  
"But," I went on, "then we make it so ourselves. I think a true Christian life should be a joyous, happy one, distributing sunshine—not like lightning—on its pathway. I love God, not fear him, and I try to be good—I ain't wicked," and I broke down, crying.

I couldn't help it, then; I answered her warmly. "Well, Miss Berry, I admit I am like the Indians, whom the white men are trying to convert to Christianity. The reports say, 'The Indian Judges—of religion as its fruits appear in the moral life of those who profess it; and I must confess I judge of it in the same way.' And I took up my needle and zephyr and left the room. And now, dear mother, was I wrong? I can not be taught religion by one who I knew is at heart not

a true Christian! How dared she talk to me of duty, and preach charity, and call me "wicked," when her whole life is one of hypocrisy and deceit. Do they not say that she let her own sister's children die of want, and her mother lives on the charities of others? (while she is rich and pious.) Does she not break the holiest of the commandments, "Honor thy father and thy mother?"

I finished "my stripe in my room, and if tears stained, my afghan would be ruined. Now you understand why Miss Berry and I avoid one another; and I hope you will believe I have the "right stripe" of religious ideas, even if I am your sometimes wilful Lou.

### THE YELLOW STRIPE.

It was "housekeeping week" when I worked on my stripe, and it under my colors you have "sweet" dreams, it will be owing to the little elves of "sugar, and spice, and all that's nice" that are woven in with my wools.

It was when Nora had rheumatism, you remember, and so I helped her all I could, and was a great deal "down stairs." I learned more than work in the kitchen that week. Over my puddings, I learned a lesson of patience. Custards and conscience quarrelled together. (I broke one of the new custard cups—and for five minutes had a mind to "hide the pieces and not tell"—but conscience conquered, you remember,) and I'm sure I beat out many a little temper in—eggs. And besides, I heard a little love story, which favored everything I made with a delicious air. Nora has got a beau—and a heart-story.

It appears, when she left home two years ago, this "broth of a boy" was under-gardener in the "hall" where she lived, and though he was younger than she, he fell in love with her, and she—"couldn't help it either," she said. When she left for America they swore fidelity to one another, (and he was to follow in a year's time.) After she reached here she was sick for a long time in the hospital—and not writing to the folks at home, they knew not what had become of poor Nora in the strange land.

It was a year before she got about, and the first time she went out she got a letter to Tom written for her. Carrying it to the post-office herself, she met on the way an old comrade from home—a pretty, pert girl, who among other news, told her "Tom was married to a young girl of seventeen years."

"And sure, Miss Nellie," Nora went on; "but my heart was broke entirely. Then I tore up my letter, and I determined to never send a word to any one, and I prepared myself to go as a lay sister in the convent of St. Joseph. It was early this spring, when one morning at nine o'clock, I didn't see his two eyes shining like stars at me from behind one of the pillars, and I thought it was his ghost come to bid me farewell, and I trembled all over like, but after service, when he came straight to me and took my hands in his, and said so sorrowfully: 'Och, Nora! how could you forget me so soon.' I knew then he was real."

And the end was, they were neither of them married, (but are going to be, to each other, of course.) It was all the malicious story of a rival, who had told to each that the other was married; and poor Tom determined to come to America, and "sarch the whole country for Nora, and see with his own eyes, before he believed."

And now, mother dear, can't we girls help Nora "get ready." She is only going to "keep rooms," and it would be so nice for each of us to give her some useful present at Christmas? This is all that happened when I knit my stripe.

### THE SCARLET STRIPE.

I wore my pretty velvet jacket and cashmere skirt the afternoon I worked on my stripe. (The "effect" was good, scarlet and black) and I sat at the little sewing-room window, where the academy boys pass on their way from school; although, of course, I was always very busy counting stitches when they went by. It snowed hard one day, and in putting my hand out to "drift" on the window sill—you know I like to eat new snow—I dropped my ball. There it lay, so pretty, too, like a little red rose on the white snow, and I had slippers on and didn't dare to go out after it, so I waited for some of the children to pass, and hand it in to me; when just then four of the academy boys came round the corner, and one (the black-eyed one that wears the seal-skin cap) ran over and picked it up for me. I began to thank him very delighted, (like Lou), but before I got through we both broke out in a laugh, and then he whispered: "Won't you come out a-sledding to-night—the Parkers and the Harris girls are going, and your brother said he'd bring you, and I'm Joe Jessup."

I answered, quickly, "Yes, if mother would let me," and shut the window, for Kate came in with Herman Grass to play chess, and they said I was chilling the room, so I flounced out and left them to—warm it again.

Don't you remember how Harry begged you to let him take me that night? It was moonlight, and I wore my little cherry hood with down trimming, and Nell curled my hair lovely! When we got out on the "Snowberg," the black-eyed boy asked Harry to let him take me on his sled, and Harry agreed if Joe would allow "even exchange." So then Lilly Jessup took my seat and away we went skimming over the smooth snow.

It was splendid! I wanted my handkerchief, and in pulling it from my pocket, out rolled my scarlet ball of wool, that I had forgotten to put away with my work! Joe ran after it—way to the bottom of the hill—and when he came back, breathless and laughing over his "second shot," I put out my hand to receive it, of course, when he said he'd "keep it to remember me by!" I scolded and coaxed, but he would not give it to me—and kept it a whole week (and I am afraid my stripe will smell horribly of slate-pencil and sponge and—boys—for he carried it to school with him every day and used to hold it up at me when he passed the window.) Lilly got it for me finally—and so, at the last minute, my stripe was finished—and I'll never speak to Joe Jessup again. There!

FANNY.

### THE GREEN STRIPE.

I finished my stripe in one evening! It was the night I staid with the Grass girls. We all had hurried Christmas work on hand, and so we agreed to sit up late under the drop-light in their pleasant "home-room," and our needles would keep time to the music of Herman's voice as he told us of his "five years of study abroad."

He told us wonderful stories of German student-life, and brought down his pipes and cap and sword, and showed me the tiniest little scar under his hair where he was cut in a duel, and he sang student songs until I could almost understand the German in them.

Although I knit industriously, I could still see all the little incidents pass before me as he related them so glowingly, and when, after some beautiful description of German life and the scenery and all, I sighed, "Oh I want to go so much!" he took my work from my hands, and, bending down, whispered to me: "Geliebte, geh mit mir?" I only half understood him, and blushed and laughed, and the girls cried: "Herman asks you to go with him!" and they put their arms around my neck and kissed me, and said they wanted me to be their sister—and they left us alone—and, oh mother—I love him! maybe I do?

KATE.

### WOOL WEAVING.

#### THE WHITE STRIPE.

Little white stitches come swiftly and go. Weaving the wools in and out, to and fro; While the bright needle industriously speeds Forming the garment humanly needs!

Little by little the task is made clear, Led by my faithful true work pioneer; Till my thoughts, with my work, are fashioned, And the shape they are taking, small wisdoms decypher.

Thinking good thoughts, led on by a thread, Querer little fancies come into my head; And I hear a small voice talking to me, while I listen into its words with nobody by.  
"Deeds, although small, if the evil overcome, Shine with an honor and glory well won; But a sin, however trifling (for naught or for ill), Remains forever and ever—sin still!"

"Little things count, even in a great life; 'Tis the little disturbances make all the strife; And little kind acts of affection will bring To the world's cheerless winter the soft airs of spring."

"Tis the sharp little thorns that, bestrewn our way, Give us scratches and wounds; and our pains to show, We should cultivate patience, with its gentle power, Turn aside all the nettles that sting, with a flower."

GUSSE.

And so "Our Afghan" and our stories were woven together. With tears on some stitches, a laugh embroidered in the meshes of another, (and maybe a drop of pudding sauce on Nell's)—but—with heart's love in all (and especially in one's) we gave our Christmas offering to "The Mother."

[For the Oxford Democrat.]

### A Reminiscence of Travel.

In the days when the popular mind of Spain became disillusioned of its faith in the supremacy of Isabella, and all Spanish severity was convulsed over a tottering kingdom and a falling crown, the gallant ship which had been our home for many long days of storm and terror, moved slowly into the harbor of one of its largest cities. The pleasant scenes presented to our eager eyes at that time we shall not soon forget. The roofs and spires of the city glistened in the distance, and the picturesque land scenery along the coast displayed the rude old watch-towers and wind-mills so characteristic of ancient Spain. Curiously formed boats glided between ship and shore, manned by the lithe-limbed natives in their parti-colored garments, who greeted us kindly, with baskets of fresh vegetables and delicious fruits. Oh, those big, blushing pomegranates! those grapes, in mammoth transparent clusters! How they nestled and hid under the dewy leaves of the cabbage and cauliflower! No wonder that the place lingers in our mind with the fragrance of luxuriant vineyards, and the gold and crimson of wealthy orchards!

But these pleasures fell off quickly. A stern-eyed officer, of positive mien, and boundless authority, informed us that we must go to an island up the Mediterranean, for a ten day's sojourn, after which, we might return and enjoy all the advantages of the port. Oh, this quarantine arrangement! It will do for the sick-untold portion of humanity, but to a ship load of strong, plump, rosy-cheeked New Englanders it is a loss and gall. There is little need of rude discussion and muttering in this case. The Captain may as well soothe himself with an extra Havanna, and the poor tan-colored Jacks go and weigh anchor at once.

Moving out into the stream we dipped our dear old flag three times as a valedictory to our friends on shore; but to tell the truth, this was done only to show to them that we would not prove ourselves derelict in the demands of common courtesy, though had we acted as our disposition prompted, we should have pronounced something, which, upon interpretation, would not have been exactly a blessing. We sailed along majestically, every now and then a little thatched cottage, or an old crumbling watch tower came out of the beautiful shade and looked quietly over the seashore to see its double on the silvered surface of the broad water. Villas, parks and gardens, appeared and disappeared, till the night-shadows and distance lost them in their mistiness. As sea life has a story and a portrait of its own, and asks not even a parenthesis here, we will leap over a few cogs on the wheel of Time, and find ourselves at Port Mahon on the great Island of Minorca.

We dropped anchor, on the brightest morning of the brightest month of the whole year. The air was redolent of fruit blossoms and a teeming growth of vegetation. Strange birds twittered the loudest of staccatos on the yards and rigging of our vessel. At our right a long line of nearly constructed fortifications stood out in bold relief, like a giant to protect the city; while on the other hand huge ledges of forbidding ruins frowned at us so coldly that we were glad to turn our hungry eyes to the rich emerald green of the broad fields that streaked away in the distance. Bold old ledges! How they have smiled and frowned in sunshine and tempest for ages! Yet there is something of poetry in them after all. How the pink-tinted ocean shells like to rest in their damp crevices, and the pretty dark sea-anemones and mosses play at their feet! But just here will the "anecdotes," or health officers, step in, and all uninvited too, to leave their burden of sanitary orders. They are decidedly unattractive in their personal appearance, and remind one forcibly of those decrepit desperados who occasionally figure in Spanish stories. They gave me a frown when they set a big, red earthen pot, from which issued smoke enough to strangle one, on our breakfast table. However, my laughter was unsmotherable. I took real pleasure in watching them from our rear cabin window as they munched their black loaf and pomegranates, and really it is to them I am indebted for much which amused me in my imprisonment. Three times we were led to a smoke-house and smoked "per order."

The building was a quaint one with countless wings and additions. We were ushered into a close, windowless apartment; a ponderous door closed, and then the smoke—the strangling smoke! Thus, alone at the mercy of the door-keeper, we awaited our release, and had just begun to dream of smoked herring and alewives, when it came.

In a few days we were allowed to visit the city. It is clear, pure and healthy. The private residences, public buildings, trunks of trees and hitching posts are all white-washed. It is indeed a white city. The natives are Spanish, yet they bear a striking resemblance to the African race in form and physiognomy. Their education is sadly neglected, and they are indolent and heedless in their habits. Their vineyards support them with but little effort, though their wine is for the most part of a very inferior quality. They have some fine cathedrals which are rough and unattractive outwardly, but with interior richly ornamented with elegant works in bass-relief, and pictures by the most celebrated early artists of the Spanish and Italian schools, which are of course interesting to the Christian antiquary, as giving him a perfect epitome of the religious ideas and symbols of the time. They were large and illustrative of sculpture character—of the many interesting events in the life of the saints. Of course there were many representations of the sainted Mary and the Savior, which were as sweet in expression and delineation as any we have ever seen. I must confess that I was somewhat disappointed in the works of the great masters. My enthusiasm cooled to dissatisfaction at first sight of them. They were smoky, cracked and indistinct. I thought then it would be such a relief to turn to one of Bierstadt's fresh, clear landscapes, or Champney's White Mountain scenes.

In the rural districts may be seen something of a modern life as peculiar to old unmodernized Spain. The Highland shepherd conducting his flocks is one of the most original characters on its romantic soil. The migratory shepherds leave their families in the mountains during the winter season, while they return to the southern pastures with their flocks, or *cacavans*, as they say. They pass in review the coin in their leather pouches, throw their mantle gracefully over their shoulders, take hat and crook, and then with an "Adios, hijo de mi alma; adios, adios!"—"Farewell, child of my soul; farewell, farewell!" they depart. It is here the gipsy meets the shepherdess on the plain and tells her all the warmth and earnestness of her heart of her true husband. The star-lit heavens is her book of prophecy. In it she reads the mythology of life.

Yes, we have enjoyed many pleasant scenes and romantic landscapes on this curious old island, and now we will have a last "adios."

M. E. F.

—Why is a tired man like an umbrella?—Because he is used up.

### The Peasant and Lawyer.

Cities have their individuality as well as men—manufacturing or maritime, intelligent or frivolous, they always reveal by their physiognomy the nature of their inhabitants. Go through Rouen, Lyons, Brest or Strasbourg, and look around you. Everything which strikes your eye will be a revelation of tastes, and hobbies; the history of each population will be found, as one might say, written in the streets. One is especially struck with this truth in visiting Rennes. To see its grand edifices, with their magisterial air, its promenades, with scarcely here and there some pensive reader, you recognize at once the capital of the old Breton Duchy, the old seat of Parliaments, the city of study, where all the thoughtful youths of the province come to cultivate their minds, for the prevalent air of Rennes is gravity; the whole city is calm and severe as a judgment hall, and, indeed, it is the dwelling-place of the law. There you find its temple, its high priests, and its most fervent worshippers. They resort hither from the most remote parts of Brittany to seek counsel. To come to Rennes without consulting a lawyer appears as impossible to a Breton as it would have been to a Greek to pass the temple of Delphos without interrogating the Pythons.

This was as true towards the end of the last century as it is to-day, and especially of the peasants, a race rendered timid by inexperience, and accustomed to take precautions. So, then, it happened, one day, that a farmer, having come to Rennes for some bargain, concluded after his business was finished, that as he still had some hours of leisure, it would be well for him to employ them in consulting a lawyer. He had often heard M. Potier de la Germondaie spoken of whose reputation was so great that a cause was deemed already gained if it were supported by his opinion. The peasant asked his address, and repaired to him in St. George street. The clients were numerous, and Bernard had to wait a long time. At last his turn came, and he was introduced. M. Potier de la Germondaie signed to him to sit down, laid his spectacles on the desk, and asked what he came for.

"Faith! Mr. Advocate," said the farmer, twisting his hat, "I have heard so much talk of you that, as I was here, I thought I would take the chance of consulting you."

"I thank you for your confidence, my friend," said Mr. Germondaie; "but you have some suit, I suppose?"

"Suit? I abominate them, and Peter Bernard never had a word with anybody."

"Then it is a settlement, a family division?"

"Excuse me, Mr. Advocate; my family and myself have never had any division to make, seeing we eat out of the same cupboard, as they say."

"It concerns some purchase or sale then?"

"Oh, no indeed! I am not rich enough to buy, nor yet poor enough to have to sell out."

"But what do you want with me, then?" asked the astonished lawyer.

"Oh, well! I have told you, sir," replied Bernard,



PARIS, MAINE, JAN. 30, 1872.

The Board of Agriculture and Farmers' Convention.

The four day's session of the Board of Agriculture, in our County, last week, was an event of unusual interest to our village and the farmers of our County. The interest increased from the first day, until the close of the third, when it culminated. Besides the able agriculturists of our State, who have distinguished themselves in their various departments, of either stock raising or as large producers from the land, and all practical farmers, self made men, such as Pres. Allen, of Saco, Seth Scamman of Scarborough, Warren Percival, of Kennebec, D. H. Thing, of Mt. Vernon, S. L. Boardman, of the Maine Farmer, and others whose names are familiar to farmers everywhere, there were men of talent now engaged in the educational department of agriculture, such as Pres. Allen, Prof. Fernald, of the State College, both able and interesting lecturers, and men from other States, also distinguished as workers in the great field of agriculture, such as T. S. Gold, of Connecticut, and Hon. John Stanton Gould, of New York. The discussions were interesting and profitable, while some of the lectures were equal to any found in a city Lyceum course. Our community, ladies and all, availed themselves of the privileges afforded by the session, and derived much pleasure and information therefrom.

We regard the custom of holding the sessions of the Board of Agriculture in different sections of the State, a good one—as it brings its practical workings and advantages within the reach of all, where its beneficial measures may be seen and appreciated.

We think that Pres. Allen's lecture on the Agricultural College served to do away with many prejudices against this institution. Prof. Fernald's lecture on Lightning was interesting to all. D. H. Thing, Esq., of Mt. Vernon, is the best specimen of a live Yankee farmer. His lecture on Sticktiveness was practical and racy, and hit the mark. He is a growing man, because he studies to make points and touch on live matters. Mr. Gold, of Connecticut, has a fund of information, and added much to the interest of the occasion—but the man who towered above others, as a lecturer, and easy, impressive speaker, was Hon. John Stanton Gould. He occupied about two hours one afternoon, on the subject of Pasture and Meadows, without wearying the audience, but his lecture on Railroads, on Thursday evening, was his crowning effort. He showed, in a masterly manner, by statistics, the value of railroads to the farmer, and then pointed out the danger of their being used against the interests of the people. We shall give our readers, hereafter, some of the important ideas advanced.

The Board and all the visitors, expressed themselves in the highest terms of satisfaction, at the reception they met from our people, and the attractiveness of our beautiful village.

The Custom House Frauds.

The attempt to implicate President Grant in the New York Custom House Frauds is a signal failure, as much so as the attempt to involve him in the Gold speculations of Wall street, last year. He is outspoken in his condemnation of all mis-conduct of officials—as much so as any member of Congress who has been active in the matter of the exposures. In a recent conversation with a Congressman concerning the investigation of affairs at the New York custom house, now going on, he said: "My mind is clear upon one point. Every officer under the administration who has been in any way connected with the irregularities in New York will be dismissed at once. It makes no difference if every man now holding office in New York should be dismissed. I shall not wait for any report or resolution of the Senate, nor even for the absolute proof of overt acts. The fact that officers have so demeaned themselves as to be open to suspicion, or to bring scandal on the service, or to disatisfy the large mercantile class, is enough to justify a change.—These Senators are no more anxious than I to purify this service, and I shall be glad to do my share in the work."

The following articles were on exhibition at the Court House for the inspection of the members of the Board of Agriculture and others interested:

Mr. F. C. Merrill exhibited Pettengill's horse hoe and side hill plow—a new invention—manufactured by him at South Paris.

Hon. V. D. Parris exhibited his fine collection of coins, at the adjournment Wednesday noon.

Mr. Wm. Cooper of this town, exhibited two articles of his own invention, a cattle tie-bow with self locking fastener, and an ox yoke with adjustable staple.—The device is of great utility where teams are unevenly matched or upon rough roads and lands, and it is thought no owner of oxen can afford to be without one.

The Farmington Chronicle speaks in the following flattering terms of Mr. Percival J. Parris, one of "our boys":

"We understand that the assistant master at Little Blue School, Mr. Parris, is meeting with good success, and gives excellent satisfaction as a teacher. Mr. Blithen speaks of him in high terms, and regards him as one well calculated to faithfully discharge the important duties assigned to him. To stand thus in the estimation of the scholars and Principal of a school whose good name is known far and near, is no small compliment for a young man."

—For a first rate Sewing Machine cheaper than other varieties, see what G. W. Hammond, Snow's Falls, has got. He would not take the agency of any thing short of the best.

State Board of Agriculture.

Winter Session at Paris Hill.

The Board of Agriculture convened in our village, at the Court House, on Tuesday, Jan'y 23d, at 9 o'clock.

The Board is constituted as follows:—Z. A. Gilbert, Androscooggin; E. E. Parkhurst, Aroostook; Seth Scammon, Cumberland; Lorin Adams, Franklin; Samuel Wasson, Hancock; Horace Colburn, Kennebec; Silas Hawes, Knox; Wm. Sweet, Oxford; A. M. Robinson, Piscataquis; A. M. Simpson, Penobscot; L. L. Lucas, Somerset; W. P. Walker, Sagadahoc; W. R. Waterman, Washington; J. W. Lang, Waldo; Ira C. Doe, York.

Members at Large.—Warren Percival, Samuel L. Boardman, Prof. M. C. Fernald, Prof. F. C. Allen, S. L. Goodale, Prof. C. F. Brackett. All were present during the session except Messrs. Warren and Robinson.

Prof. T. S. Gold, Sec. of the Connecticut Board of Agriculture, and Hon. John Stanton Gould, of New York, one of the ablest and most eloquent speakers on agricultural topics in the country, were present.

Sec. Goodale called the Convention to order, and nominated Ira C. Doe of Saco, as temporary chairman. Committee on Credentials, Sweet of Oxford, Hawes of Knox, and Adams of Franklin.

Our limits will not allow so full a report this week, as we should like to give. We shall give abstracts of discussions and of the lectures, from week to week, under our agricultural head, having matter enough for some time, and it is of a nature that will keep.

The proposition offered at the last session authorizing agricultural societies to offer part of the fund received from the State as premiums for improvement of farms was taken from the table.

Voted, that all delegates from farmers' clubs, and other persons present interested in agriculture be invited to take part in the general discussion of all topics coming before the Board, but not be allowed to vote.

Z. A. Gilbert, offered as a substitute for the pending resolution the following:

Ordered that the several agricultural societies of the State, be and hereby are directed to set apart for three years, one-fourth of the money annually received from the State, to be offered in a premium or premiums for some special or general farm improvements; said premiums to be awarded at the expiration of the above named time.

Col. Sweet of Oxford, moved to amend this by substituting one-half instead of one-fourth.

This was rigorously opposed by some, and as earnestly supported by others. The main ground of opposition was that it would take away the sum that has been used toward the support of farmers' clubs. Scammon of Cumberland, while yielding to no one in his support of Farmers' Clubs was in favor of using one-half of the whole sum for premiums for improvements in farms. It would be a most judicious expenditure of money. It was not a new idea. It had been tried some years ago in several Counties particularly in Cumberland County, and he could testify from his own experience as to the great good accomplished thereby. Nearly every farmer who had entered for the premium at the end of the three years, was amply repaid for his time and expense by the increased value of his farm, even if he did not receive the prize. Every man finds his just return for his expenditures, and labors, in the mere increase of his crops. Then the reflex improvement in the farms in the neighborhood was most marked.

Such examples are contagious, and the standard of farming is raised in the whole community. The only thing necessary is to offer something that shall be an inducement to men to enter into such competition.

Sec. Goodale thought this one of the most important subjects that would come before the Board. This offered direct inducement to them to strive earnestly to improve their farms. In the majority of cases in which premiums were now awarded upon animals or crops, they were the result of accident and not of the skill or labor of the farmer, while this offered a premium on industry and skill. He would have the award made on the greatest amount made with the least expense otherwise farmers with large means would exclude all of small means by their large expenditures. He would not have the improvement confined to any particular branch of farming, but would include everything, buildings as well as crops, for in his opinion, some wives of farmers needed more looking after than cows and sheep. He was in favor of using the one-half so as to make the premium an object worth striving for. The matter was then laid on the table for the present.

Made choice of the following officers for permanent organization:—President, Z. A. Gilbert, Androscooggin; Vice President, Wm. Sweet, Oxford; Secretary, G. L. Goodale.

In the afternoon, Governor Perham made an able address of welcome, occupying nearly an hour, and replete with valuable information and good ideas. We shall give an abstract of it hereafter.

In the evening, Prof. M. C. Fernald of the Agricultural College, gave an exceedingly interesting and profitable lecture on "Protection from Lightning."

SECOND DAY.

The Board met at 9 o'clock A. M. On motion of Mr. Scammon of Cumberland, it was voted that Prof. Fernald of Orono, and Secretary Goodale be delegates to represent the Maine Board of Agriculture at the National Agricultural Association, to be held at Washington, D. C., Feb. 15th, 1872.

PASTURAGE.

Prof. Fernald presented the method of treatment adopted by Mr. Arey of Hampden, regarding pastures. He divides them into several departments, changing the stock from one to the other from time to time. Turns under, say lot No.

1, when there is about a half a ton of grass on an acre; cultivates hoed or grain crops a year or two, then lays down to grass; thinks farmers err in feeding too closely; the secret lies in taking the stock off before the feed is closely cropped.

President Gilbert expressed a hope that Mr. A. would in future meet with the Board. Mr. Arey seeds with herdsgrass and clover.

ORCHARDING.

Discussion on orcharding opened by T. S. Gold. Omitting the mere fancy products, he confined himself to the culture of the apple and pear. Where nature has not provided a loose subsoil it is necessary to under-drain in order to convey away surplus matter, and also to give the root a chance to strike downward as they desire. The aspect for orchards should receive a due amount of attention. Preparation of soil is essential. The cultivation of such hoed crops as require high manuring is advisable in orchards where the soil is such as to admit of working. In planting an orchard we should not look merely at the present, but forward to the future. The preparation of holes for setting trees should occupy particular attention; should be broad and highest on the bottom in the center, sloping gently to its edges.—Carefully cut back shoots to half of last year's growth, and every lacinated root, sloping and smoothly. Trees from two to three years growth are best for transplanting. Select trees from the nursery yourself, if possible; those with well balanced, even tops, and also of roots. Nursery men do not always trim trees in the best manner for our wants. He would prescribe no fruit for different localities till acquainted thoroughly with all attendant peculiarities of soil and climate. He thinks early fall planting far preferable to late, and perhaps as conducive to good results as spring. Roots in transit should be protected from freezing and they also should be carefully protected from dryness. He illustrated by referring to transplanting forest trees, and especially evergreens. Handle trees carefully. In transplanting put the roots in their natural positions, and fill loam carefully about them. He recommends using water in moderate quantities to settle the earth more firmly about them. Animals should be excluded from fields devoted to tree culture and orcharding; calves are especially detrimental to orchards.

The culture an orchard should receive, is a much mooted question among fruit growers. Would occupy ground when trees are small, with potatoes or some other hoed crop, giving plenty of room about the trees uncropped. Thinks plowing, as usually conducted in orchards, is as conducive to damage as to benefit.—Thinks orchards may be successfully managed even where grass is allowed to grow, especially when the trees are large; would pasture such with hogs or sheep, placing some protection about the trunks; would exclude the animals in the latter part of the summer.

In selecting trees, avoid one that forks; they never make as desirable trees as others. Recommended shelter, but not exclude ventilation; evergreens make the best shelters. Prune little and often; prune early and judiciously. Do it with the knife. Winter gives peculiar facilities for this operation. Make a clear, smooth cut; not too close, neither leaving a stump; remove all suckers each year; keep a proper amount of growth upon all sides to secure a well balanced head.

Great care should be exercised in harvesting. Gather by picking from the tree, not from the ground. Cold, wet ground in which trees are placed, is conducive to the many ills, and perhaps the parent of them all. A late, vigorous growth, late in the autumn is to be avoided.

The insect enemies we have to contend with are the bark louse, canker worm, the borer, the tent caterpillar, the apple worm and the apple maggot. Spoke at some length upon the habits and devastation of the borer, also means of prevention, but gave nothing new upon this point.

Col. Hersey, of Lincoln, inquired how far apart he would place trees in an apple orchard. Mr. Gold answered from thirty to forty feet.

Mr. Lucas, of Somerset, inquired how many upon an acre. Mr. Gold said about forty.

Mr. S. F. Perley, of Naples, followed in some remarks: Said Mr. Gold had confined himself more to general than to specific principles; considered him good authority, and had been very much interested in his remarks. Spoke particularly of the production of apples. Much time and effort has been wasted on unsuitable sites; would select a northern exposure—reasons—better soil, and deeper. Best soils for orcharding are stone, or granite, poorest sand, stiff clay and mud. Soils composed of feldspar largely, are well adapted to orcharding. Protection by means of shelters, pays by the saving of fruit from being blown off by high winds; gales and squalls, in a great measure; would prefer the whole field in room of holes and special places for receiving the trees; does not fully endorse the putting of water about the roots at setting; thinks trees for transplanting should be small; pear trees not more than two years old at the most. The height of trees should not be over four feet; thinks from thirty to forty trees sufficient for an acre of land, here in the State of Maine where land is not very valuable we certainly ought to give them room enough. The time for transplanting is when the leaves are off and the ground dry. Beans, cucumbers or tomatoes are a good crop to cultivate in orchards, does not think favorably of potatoes or turnips, as they are a potato-loving plant, and may rob the trees.—Would never use oxen to plow near trees; a single horse with a careful driver and a careful man at the plow should be employed. He thinks a good compost made of muck and barn-yard manure is good for fertilizing—superphosphates are good—lime is good. When trees become large,

run to grass or pasture,—all things considered, he prefers sheep to stock an orchard with; he cited an instance of profitable increase in his own experience. He thinks it won't do to plow and break off many of the roots of old trees. Baskets for gathering apples should be lined and the utmost care used in handling; should never be allowed to drop not even an inch. Barrels in which apples are marketed should be clean and neat in appearance. Send no poor fruit to market.—Good fruit will command good prices; pack so that they shall not have room to bruise. No person is too old to start an orchard.

Hon. V. D. Parris inquired the speaker's experience in grafting old orchards. Mr. Perley answered that his experience had been varied; would cut back severely,—will not always be satisfactory; would fertilize with compost or other fertilizer at same time. Never plant young trees where old ones have been removed. Mulching had not given expected results with him.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

Board met at 2 P. M., the President in the chair, who introduced, with a few remarks, John Stanton Gould, of Hudson, N. Y., who gave a lecture upon

MANAGEMENT OF MEADOWS AND PASTURES.

Mr. Gould stated the value of the grass crops in the United States annually to be \$500,000,000. A neighbor of his produces three tons of hay per acre. Kings County, N. Y., produces the most hay of any in the State, one hundred and eighty tons to the hundred acres. Onondaga County, the garden of the State, produces but one hundred and twelve tons to the hundred acres. George Geddes, who resides in his vicinity, produces two and a half tons per acre. Grasses vary much in their nutritive value, component parts, and the amount of forage produced—some grasses are muscle producers; some fat formers, and some bone feeders. Every variety of grass was intended by the Creator to be adapted to some useful and beneficial purpose.

Many sections are producers of grasses not adapted to them, and would, if seeded with proper varieties, produce largely when compared with the present. For every locality and grade of soil, some variety is eminently adapted. Recommended observations regarding the natural products which grow with the greatest luxuriance, and report to some respectable journal; then we shall have reliable data from which to work. We should adopt botanical names, as local names often lead to mistakes. Meadows are defined to be any land where grass is grown. On a square yard of wet meadow were found thirty plants of different varieties, four of which, only, were useful ones. On a square yard of dry meadow or field, were found thirty-eight varieties, eight useful and thirty useless. On a square yard of moist meadow were found twenty-five varieties of plants, eight of which, only were useful, the other seventeen being useless. Irrigated meadows gave 400 per cent. more produce of grass than thin upland soils. Poor clay gave 50 per cent.; irrigated meadows or fields, gave four hundred per cent.

A strong, deep, calcareous soil resting upon a clay subsoil is the best grass land. Sow a great variety of seeds; prepare the soils as well as possible and manure as highly as practicable. Plants do not tolerate near neighbors of their own species. Our soils are not covered with grass plants thickly enough. Man absolutely requires a mixed diet. It is just the same with our animals. The fields on a farm should be so arranged as to come into bloom the proper time for cutting, successively. Varieties that do not bloom at the same time should not be sown together.

Mr. Poor of Andover, inquired what process we should take in view of the present situation.

Mr. Gould replied the treatment just recommended was the best he knew. He recommended setting apart just a square rod in a plot and trying different fertilizers, carefully noting effects and weighing produce, leaving one plot without dressing as a standard.

EVENING SESSION.

Warren Colburn of Kennebec, read an essay upon "Grass lands and Culture."

D. H. Thing of Mt. Vernon, read an essay entitled "Stick-to-it-iveness," a sharp, pertinent production that hit the mark intended. He thinks Maine equal, all things considered, to any section of the country and counsels sticking by the old parental State.

THURSDAY.

The topic of the disposal of the State appropriation, devoted last year to the encouragement of wheat growing and Farmer's clubs.

The discussion was participated in by Secretary Goodale, Colburn of Kennebec, Walker of Sagadahoc, Howes of Knox, Adams of Franklin, Doe of York, S. L. Boardman, and others. It was finally disposed of in the same manner as last year, viz: half to farmers' clubs and half to general farm improvement.

T. S. Gold opened a discussion on the topic of "Production of Milk."

Warren Percival of Maine State Society spoke of the breeds in Maine and the adaptation of breeds to ends desired.

T. S. Gold of Connecticut, spoke at length upon dairying, and the production of milk. He said Jersey milk was not richer than the Ayrshire, but its color gave it better reputation.

AFTERNOON.

Board met at 2 o'clock. Seth Scammon of Cumberland delivered a lecture on "Farm labor." He believed in it. Regarded it honorable and as deserving of better pay. Agricultural labor toilers every other industry.

L. L. Lucas of Somerset, read an essay upon the "Common errors in rearing and feeding farm stock."

The discussion that followed was participated in by Z. Thayer of South Paris, Mr. Lawrence, of Bucksport, Mr. Gould of New York, and Mr. Thing of Mt. Vernon.

EVENING SESSION.

Hon. Warren Percival of the Maine

State Society read an essay upon "Our Influence"—a well prepared paper.

J. S. Gould of New York then delivered a lecture upon "Farming interest."

FRIDAY A. M.

The forenoon was devoted to reports of Farmers' Clubs, but as many of the delegates had left, there was not so much interest in this session as would otherwise have been—tho' the delegates who occupied the time advanced many good ideas and related much valuable experience, which we shall give hereafter.—Nearly fifty delegates reported, mostly from clubs in our County, and the County Club was also represented.

Mr. Leland, from Farmington, reported that the Cheese factory, started in their County was a success, and paid 8 per cent. on the investment. It took the milk of about 200 cows, and saved the farmers' wives a good deal of hard work. The cheese manufactured sells well.

Mr. James A. Lawrence, an intelligent old gentleman of over 72 years, who came all the way from Bucksport to attend the meetings, gave some interesting statements about feeding cattle with hay and meal. He weighed all the hay, so as to tell just what consumed in the Spring. He gave his horse, 10 pounds of hay, and two quarts of scalded meal in the morning, and two at night, with a quart of oats at noon, and cows the same, except the oats. All he gave a colt that would be a year old in April was 4 pounds of hay and one quart of oats, and he was thriving well.

The afternoon was occupied in the discussion of Fruit raising.—Mr. Adams, of Somerset, opening it by an Essay on orcharding. Report hereafter.

As the session was about closing, Mr. Lang, of Waldo, offered the following:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Maine Board of Agriculture be, and hereby are, tendered to the citizens of Paris for the ample and convenient accommodations provided for its deliberations,—for the cordiality with which they were received, and for the uniform kindness and courtesy manifested during our brief stay in this beautiful village.

Resolved, That the above Resolution be entered upon the records of the Board.

Passed, and acknowledgements in behalf of the citizens of our village returned in a few remarks by the editor of the Democrat,—after which the Board adjourned, in the best of spirits—all declaring that they had enjoyed one of the best and most profitable sessions since the Board had been put "on trucks"—in other words since its sessions had been at different sections of the State, instead of at the Capital.

—We met, at the Farmers' Convention, last week, one of the sons of Oxford, an ex-member of the Board of Agriculture, who is now one of the solid men of Penobscot County. We refer to our old friend, Wm. R. Hersey, Esq., son of Samuel Hersey, of Sumner, who was born in that town in 1811, and left it 40 years ago to seek his fortune "Down East." He went to Lincoln—a smart village now—when there was but one painted house in town. He was in the lumbering business with Gen. Samuel F. Hersey, of Bangor, the first six years, and has farmed and lumbered for himself, since. He gets out about a million of lumber a year, and raises, some years, 1800 bushels of grain—last year 940 bushels. He is a man of weight, 265 pounds, and as hearty as a buck. He has been in town office considerably, and been a Senator from his County two years. He lives in an easy, comfortable way, having a nice farm and buildings worth seven or eight thousand dollars.

—At a meeting of the board of trustees of the State Agricultural Society, Jan. 17th, it was voted to advertise for proposals from towns and cities for locating the State Fair for a term of two years. A committee from Belfast presented the claims of that city. The trustees are Seward Dill, of Phillips; W. P. Wingate, of Bangor; S. T. Raymond, Portland; Warren Percival, Vassalboro; Rufus Turner, Paris; and B. F. Hamilton, S. L. Boardman, Augusta, Secretary. The board adjourned to March 12th, to take into consideration offers received as to location.

—The First Baptist Society in our village, and the First Congregational in South Paris, have resorted to the Envelope system of raising money for the support of the ministry. Envelopes are distributed in the pews, and persons are to put into them, weekly or monthly, as the case may be, such sums as they choose. We think this may be an improvement on the common custom in the country of collecting on a subscription paper, at great trouble to a collector and long after it should be paid. It is easier to pay in small sums, and when one realizes how small the usual annual amount is, when paid monthly, they will be likely to double the subscription. No class of men in our communities are so inadequately remunerated as the servants of God, and they should receive what they are to have as often as monthly, or quarterly. Surely some persons think twelve dollars a year a pretty good sum to pay for preaching. They may have four in their family, and pay a dollar a month for four or eight sermons for four persons, at the rate of three or six cents apiece, when they would give 25 cents admission to a negro concert, or some show or other. The plan is for the Treasurer to open an account with each pew-holder and distribute Envelopes with his name upon it the last Sabbath of each month, and on the first Sabbath the box is passed to receive the Envelope, with the monthly contribution of each person. Boxes are also arranged at the side of each floor leading from the church, to receive the contributions of transient worshippers. The Treasurer credits all amounts received. The plan promises favorably and has several things to recommend it for general adoption in country societies.

—Atlantic and St. Lawrence railroad stock is quoted in London at 92 a 94, which is about the same as governments.

Boston Correspondence.

The musical season in Boston is at its height. The centre of attraction is of course the Parepa Rosa English Opera Troupe, who are drawing crowded houses, and under the able management of Carl Rosa, winning fresh laurels. Parepa is, it is possible, in better voice than before her European tour, and charms her hearers by those wonderful trills, and brilliant rendering of the highest notes above the staff. In her solo of Arline in the "Bohemian Girl," all became convinced of her ability as a dramatic artist. Mrs. Seguin is nobly sustaining her reputation as an actress and singer, while Messrs. Campbell, Castle, and Seguin are daily adding to their already brilliant reputation. The Hyers sisters, two young colored girls, not yet out of their teens, gave four concerts this week at Tremont Temple. They sing in English and Italian, and produce many of the favorite operatic airs with skill. Their voices are of excellent quality, and they are regarded as truly wonderful. Oratorios at Music Hall last Saturday and Sunday evenings by the Handel and Hayden Society, assisted by distinguished members of Mr. Dolly's company of artists, were largely attended—the "Statut Mater" and Elijah being rendered in the most glorious manner. Since Miss Anna Mehlig's return from Europe, she has given a series of "Piano Forte Recitals," which have been largely attended. Friday eve a powerful volunteer company gave a concert at Tremont Temple, in aid of the Boston North End Mission.

Wm. Keith, who has lately returned from California, is at work on a Maine landscape.

Boston, Jan. 19, 1872.

Mexico—Sleigh Ride to Canton.

Being too sleepy to write an account of the sleigh ride of the 12th inst. in season for last week's paper, I will do so now, although I fear you and your readers will judge from this and former articles, that your Mexico correspondent was "born sleepy." Last Friday, Mexico, Dixfield, and Carthage people, to the number of fifty-one couple, left Dixfield village shortly after one o'clock P. M. for Canton, led by Samuel White, (a jolly fellow with a white-frosted hair.) The first five miles were passed over at a pace "ten days slower than a dumb watch," when Capt. White "scouting afar off" the hot turkey and oysters awaiting our arrival at Barrows' hotel, hastened his pace, and arriving at Canton village, the railroad metropolis of the Androscooggin and Swift river valleys, made a detour around the village to show the staring Cantontites, "the richness of our outside rags" and proud prancing of our horses, when we drove to the hotel and found Mr. Barrows and son with numerous aids ready to show us our rooms. In the early evening the gentlemen and ladies repaired to the hall, where they were joined by a number of the elite of Canton and vicinity, making a company of nearly one hundred couple, who with in describable grace and elegance, and with an exactness of time unparalleled in the annals of dancing, performed a series of waltzes, polkas, quadrilles and contra dances, to enlivening and exceedingly well executed music, furnished by Geo. F. Towle's band, assisted by other good but not extensively known musicians. The small hours of the night wore on, daylight dawned, and still they danced. Oh! the joys of dancing.—Finally breakfast was announced, eaten, horses called for, and a crowd of sleepers it not happier individuals were homeward bound.—Your correspondent remained through the greater part of the day, and "interviewed" the prominent citizens, visited the various manufacturing establishments and found that "matters and things" were moving well—with the exception of the Railroad, which has no moving thing on it at present. Mr. Smith, however, is confident of very soon running regular trains,—as usual.

Leaving Canton, we visited Bretton's Mills, and there learned one very gratifying fact—that Israel Washburn, Jr. reported that he had received from the Maine Central people a solemn promise to take hold of the Androscooggin Valley Railroad the coming season. I there found a former resident of Rumford, Theo. Russell, who has built, assisted by his son, a large Steam Mill, which is now almost hidden from view by the immense piles of lumber surrounding it. At this place, Samner Soule & Co. have heretofore manufactured a large number of boots. They have discontinued that trade, and now make youth's misses' and women's balmorals and buskins. They employ from fifty to one hundred hands the year through. J. V. Young, formerly of Peru, is going to manufacturing men's boots there on a large scale.—Messrs. Turner & Son, formerly of Peru, have at this place a very good saw mill, using a circular saw kept in almost continued use by the pressure of business. Withal, Bretton's Mills is one of the most active places in this section.

If anything more occurs in this vicinity I will let you know about it.—It comes to mind just now, we go for Grant.

SPARKS.

East Rumford Items.

Mr. Editor:—The winter of 1872 finds us stirring in our little village. We have had a cold fall, but rather a pleasant January as yet, and the snow lies even on the ground, which looks favorable for the coming hay crop. Fodder looks "flew and far between" in the various barns around us, and the farmers are using corn to fill the vacancy caused by the absence of hay. A. J. Knight, one of our most enterprising farmers, is wintering about fifty head of horned cattle the present winter, has bought only 15 tons of hay and 800 bushels of corn, which he thinks will carry his stock through the winter.

Messrs. Holman & Smith have put in operation a Chair Factory at Rumford Falls, which promises to be a success. They intend to have 75 dozen fitted by the first of May.

J. W. Bennett has engaged some 300 cords of Poplar, to be hauled to his mill at the Falls, for the manufacture of Boxes the coming summer.

D. F. Putnam contemplates an addition to his Saw mill, containing a shingle machine, and lathe mill.

Wm. F. Putnam intends moving to the Falls, and will erect in the Spring a nice dwelling house, and a large carpenter's shop, in which employment will be furnished to a number of hands.

Albert Virgin is logging to quite an extent this winter. C. E. Virgin is doing quite an extensive business at wood hauling. J. E. Washburn is largely engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes of all kinds, and employs several hands. V. D. Fuller will set out this Spring about 5 acres of hops. V. D. Kimball and A. J. Knight have a large contract of spruce timber, to be hauled into the Hancock mill at Brewer.—Henry J. Abbott has moved to the Falls, into what is called the Knapp House. He will remodel the house in the Spring, and open a Hotel for the convenience of the public.

We are having quite a treat this winter in a course of Lectures, both historical and scientific, delivered by Rev. R. Vivian, our highly esteemed clergyman, who is a resident of our village, and who believes in practicing what he preaches. The lectures have been very instructive, and duly appreciated by all intelligent people.

The friends of our worthy Pastor assembled at the Parsonage last Wednesday in a large number, filling the house to overflowing, and after partaking of a bountiful repast spread by willing hands, the company repaired to the church, where they were addressed by various gentlemen; music was furnished by an excellent choir. The company departed at a late hour leaving behind them many of the "substantial and eatables of life," amounting to about \$75.

There is a series of meetings in progress at the Centre, and we understand the same is to be continued here soon at the east part of the town.

Bethel Items.

The Lewiston Journal says Miss Mary H. True, of Bethel, who sailed a few weeks since, has arrived at her destination in Fakenham, in the N. E. part of England. She writes that the fields on the route from Liverpool to London, were as green as with us in the latter part of May. Her numerous friends will be glad to learn that she is delightfully situated in the family of Sir W. Jones, whence we hope to be able to receive from her facile pen descriptions of her sight seeing for the benefit of our readers.

We were shown a curious relic of a hundred and fifty years ago, by Mrs. Cyrene M. Tiddwell of Bethel. It is a China tea bowl which sets in a saucer. This was placed on the table filled with dry tea. Each guest poured a little into a cup and then poured on hot water and drank the extract. It was the property of the late Hon. Moses Mason, and was owned by his grandmother in Massachusetts.

Bethel, Jan. 23, 1872.

At a special communication of Bethel Lodge, No. 97, held at Lodge room in Bethel, Me., Jan. 19, 1872, the following officers elected were duly installed by P. M. Enoch Foster, Jr., of Bethel, viz:—

S. F. Gibson, M.; A. B. Godwin, proxy for J. A. Morton, S. W.;



### Farmers' Club--Norway.

The Club met Wednesday evening, Jan. 24th, and discussed the question: Resolved, That the rich uneducated man has more influence than the poor educated man.

By my being away to attend the meeting of the Board of Agriculture, a meeting of larger magnitude, but of no more importance, I am unable to give the report that it is worthy of. The meeting was opened by Wm. Perry, who made some interesting remarks, and was followed in the affirmative by Messrs. A. J. Merrill, O. Perry, C. W. Partridge, M. Green, Wm. C. Hobbs, and others. The Negative was opened by Horace Burnham, who labored with much zeal to defend his side of the question. Burnham was followed on the Negative by Messrs. A. F. Noyes, Wm. Fisk, L. D. Hobbs, Geo. E. Gibson, L. Hathaway. Had a very interesting meeting, the participants claiming that neither side had gained the ascendancy. Vote on the question about equal.

Question for next meeting: Resolved, That Women have more influence in society than men. Sec'y.

### Waterford Items.

An unusual activity is manifested on the parts of the farmers in this vicinity, in hauling lumber to market during the past few weeks, as Wm. W. Watson, of South Waterford, has made arrangements whereby he makes use, not only of poplar timber, but also of birch, spruce, fir and pine. A new stimulus to be given the farmers, as they now are able to obtain a good price for what has formerly been considered almost useless. It is estimated that at the above named establishment one thousand cords of lumber at least will be manufactured in salt boxes the coming season.

Messrs. Cobb & Hapgood are putting a new Sash and Window into their saw mill, at South Waterford, and a circular saw saw along with other extensive improvements, with a view to largely increase their business in the spring, to be able to meet the increasing demand for sawed lumber.

Albert E. Getchell, hat, cap and fur dealer in Boston, a native of Waterford, Maine, killed himself Tuesday by cutting his throat with a razor.

### Andover Items.

A little child of Noble Small, swallowed a pin, the other day. The parents supposed it had passed into the stomach, but the next day the child could not swallow. They called in Dr. Ingalls, who found it had lodged in the throat, and so strong it had it become imbedded, he found it difficult to remove it with his instruments. The child has now recovered.

Pratt's Newton has exchanged one fourth of his mill property, one-half of the "mill house," with James Farrington, for his property, consisting of a newly repaired house, stable and several acres of land.

John A. French has made improvements in his store, by fitting up a counting room, and repairing his grocery department.

### Editorial and Selected Items.

The pressure of local news this week, crowds out general news.

Thanks to Hon. W. P. Frye, M. C., for public documents.

We are having delightful winter weather.

An overseer is wanted for the town farm.

Our Legislative letter failed to reach us this week.

Nothing new in Congressional matters.

Elder Dunham, of Bryan's Pond, remarked, in the Farmers' Convention, last week, that the first carriage made in Oxford County, was made 58 years ago.

Hon. W. P. Frye, our M. C., delivered a temperance address at the temperance State Convention in New Jersey last week.

There will be a regular meeting of the Paris Hill Lodge, I. O. of G. T., on next Friday evening, Feb. 2nd, at the brick school-house. It is particularly desired that all the Officers be present.

We are glad to learn that Mr. Edwin A. Daniels, of our village, who graduated last Summer at Dartmouth, has been appointed Instructor in the Latin and Modern Languages, in the New Jersey Classical and Scientific Institute, at Hightstown, N. J., at a salary of \$1,000.

Mr. S. D. Weeks has purchased an outfit in Boston and will immediately open a barber's shop in the Post office building.

Dr. Calvin E. Evans, of Norway, will deliver an address before the Farmers' Club at Frost's Corner, Wednesday, Jan. 31st. Subject--Fertilizers and Fertilizing. Members of Clubs and the public generally are invited.

Rev. G. W. Fuller of West Sunner enjoyed a welcome donation visit on the 17th inst., when his people left with him a generous supply of the good things of this life.

Edgar S. Brown, Esq., who read law with E. Foster, Jr., Esq., of Bethel, and was admitted to our bar, has opened a law office in Portland. We notice that he got a verdict of Not Guilty, in one case in the Superior Court, which he has already tried. Success to him, as a worthy, promising young son of Oxford.

It is not very profitable to newspaper publishers to have persons in a neighborhood put their wits together to see how few papers they can take, by exchanging with each other. A newspaper is like a wife, every man should have one for himself.

See notice of Gould's Academy, Bethel. By some inadvertence we failed to receive the advertisement sooner. The new Principal, Mr. Hersey, comes highly recommended, and no doubt the popularity of the school will be kept up.

### Bethel Retail Market.

Corrected weekly by R. A. CHAPMAN & CO.  
Apples \$1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 1.60, 1.70, 1.80, 1.90, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 2.60, 2.70, 2.80, 2.90, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 3.60, 3.70, 3.80, 3.90, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 4.60, 4.70, 4.80, 4.90, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 5.60, 5.70, 5.80, 5.90, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 6.60, 6.70, 6.80, 6.90, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 7.60, 7.70, 7.80, 7.90, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 8.60, 8.70, 8.80, 8.90, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 9.60, 9.70, 9.80, 9.90, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 10.60, 10.70, 10.80, 10.90, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 11.60, 11.70, 11.80, 11.90, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 12.60, 12.70, 12.80, 12.90, 13.00, 13.10, 13.20, 13.30, 13.40, 13.50, 13.60, 13.70, 13.80, 13.90, 14.00, 14.10, 14.20, 14.30, 14.40, 14.50, 14.60, 14.70, 14.80, 14.90, 15.00, 15.10, 15.20, 15.30, 15.40, 15.50, 15.60, 15.70, 15.80, 15.90, 16.00, 16.10, 16.20, 16.30, 16.40, 16.50, 16.60, 16.70, 16.80, 16.90, 17.00, 17.10, 17.20, 17.30, 17.40, 17.50, 17.60, 17.70, 17.80, 17.90, 18.00, 18.10, 18.20, 18.30, 18.40, 18.50, 18.60, 18.70, 18.80, 18.90, 19.00, 19.10, 19.20, 19.30, 19.40, 19.50, 19.60, 19.70, 19.80, 19.90, 20.00, 20.10, 20.20, 20.30, 20.40, 20.50, 20.60, 20.70, 20.80, 20.90, 21.00, 21.10, 21.20, 21.30, 21.40, 21.50, 21.60, 21.70, 21.80, 21.90, 22.00, 22.10, 22.20, 22.30, 22.40, 22.50, 22.60, 22.70, 22.80, 22.90, 23.00, 23.10, 23.20, 23.30, 23.40, 23.50, 23.60, 23.70, 23.80, 23.90, 24.00, 24.10, 24.20, 24.30, 24.40, 24.50, 24.60, 24.70, 24.80, 24.90, 25.00, 25.10, 25.20, 25.30, 25.40, 25.50, 25.60, 25.70, 25.80, 25.90, 26.00, 26.10, 26.20, 26.30, 26.40, 26.50, 26.60, 26.70, 26.80, 26.90, 27.00, 27.10, 27.20, 27.30, 27.40, 27.50, 27.60, 27.70, 27.80, 27.90, 28.00, 28.10, 28.20, 28.30, 28.40, 28.50, 28.60, 28.70, 28.80, 28.90, 29.00, 29.10, 29.20, 29.30, 29.40, 29.50, 29.60, 29.70, 29.80, 29.90, 30.00, 30.10, 30.20, 30.30, 30.40, 30.50, 30.60, 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## Agricultural.

### Review of the Season and Crops of 1871.

The Maine Farmer publishes an extended and able review of the agricultural interests of our State the past year. We copy some of the ideas with suggestions of correspondents, and may refer to the article again.

Nature sometimes forces her lessons with great severity, compelling man to endure hard penalties for his improvidence. Liberal and laudable to him who deals with a generous hand towards her, she ever avenges herself upon short-sighted men who pinch and starve and abuse her, that they may reap a little immediate profit. Her policy is, "to him that hath shall be given, and he shall have more abundance; but to him that hath not shall be taken away, even that which he seemeth to have." Hard it may be, but the essence of justice.

While the short crop of hay the past season is due to several natural causes, it is also plain that a different course on the part of the farmer would have resulted in giving an average yield of hay. Successive years of selling off nearly all the hay cut, of little seedling, no top-dressing and late cutting, have produced the natural effect. All our correspondents testify to the fact that where these conditions are fulfilled, the yield has been fully an average one. Our farmers have learned to their cost, that a more liberal and judicious treatment of grass lands must be practiced, if certain and ample returns are expected. Added to this, they must be impressed with the fact that low lands along brooks and streams—natural grass producing sections which when cleared yield a heavy crop of grass of very good quality—must be cleared and more generally depended upon for hay. Thousands of acres of just such lands are now lying idle and useless in our State, that if cleared would nearly double the annual yield of hay. The top dressing of grass lands must also be more generally and uniformly practiced.

A matter of serious consideration, and one that must be attended to, is the treatment of those lands, seeded it may be for two years in succession, which have failed to "catch." What shall be done with them? Is a question demanding attention, and one affecting the future of our farming to no small extent. And as being very appropriate in this connection, we ask a careful reading to the article in this issue on the value of clover and plaster in renovating grass lands; from the pen of a practical farmer as well as a learned gentleman, resident in this country.

Another thing which the past season has impressed upon us, is the value of having land for grain, especially wheat, and seed crops prepared in the fall. The seed can then be put in early, the crops make a good growth, and are far better able to withstand drouth when it comes, as their roots run deep and the plants shade the ground, preventing evaporation, and retaining moisture. The state of the weather of our correspondents also show that early sown grains suffered less from grasshoppers than those sown late.

The area of cultivated land should be lessened and the extent cultivated better dressed and better worked. Satisfactory yields invariably follow such a course. The cost of cultivation is less, and the land is left in better condition for succeeding crops.

The value of orchards is clearly demonstrated. Apples trees are generally but little injured by heat or cold, drouth or wet. Their returns are sure, and bring good sums into the farmers' pockets. The work of planting should be prosecuted with redoubled energy another spring. There is no danger of over-production—large quantities of fruit sell more readily and for a higher price than small lots.

We hope some useful lessons in regard to feeding stock will be learned the coming winter—the opportunity is certainly a good one, and the necessity for economy should be put to good use for future guidance. The reduction of stock the past season will in the end work for the improvement of our cattle and horses; the product of the best must be better than the product of inferior animals, and an increased value of the farm stock of Maine will follow.

The following statements from our correspondents seem too useful to be consigned to the waste basket, and to their several reflections and suggestions we add due thought.

The lesson taught by the experience of the past season is to place the seed in the ground early, so that it may come forward and offer some shade to the tender roots before the severity of the drouth shall come.—GEO. A. RUSSELL, Sec. Ken. Agt. So., Readfield.

We know that seed time and harvest shall not fail, but we also know from past experience that many disappointments arise; hence nothing is sure. Excess of moisture, the want of rain, hail storms and floods and the ravages of insects are common experiences. The lessons we should learn are these: If there is an excess of moisture, then drainage; if a want of it, then frequent stirring of the soil. Insects must be watched and destroyed as far as practicable, and when we have done all we can ourselves, we should trust that Providence whose watchful eye remembers even the sparrow.—W. P. ATHERTON, Hallowell.

One cause of the short hay crop this year was the almost entire failure of lands seeded to grass last year. Many have plowed these grounds and seeded again this year with no better success. Now where is the fault? Is it the earth that refuses to yield her accustomed supply for man and beast, or the weather, over which we have no control; or in man, who in his ignorance fails to forelay to the vicissitudes of nature? The great

drouth, no doubt, is the more immediate cause of failure in the Hay crop. Grass is a native of this country, and sows its seed in the fall. Now if we had seeded our lands last fall, should we, or should we not have been more likely to have secured a fair crop this year? I have seen a good crop of hay taken late in the season, from seed sown early in spring, as soon as the snow was off, without any grain. It has been suggested that our mowing machines were destroying our meadow lands—how? or why? Some say by cutting too close. One gentleman at our last Club meeting suggested that it was the timothy below the first joint in the water would descend into the stock or the bulb and cause it to rot, thereby destroying the roots. Are not our horse rakes doing considerable mischief by tearing out the roots?—JOHN ROYAL, Sec. No. Waldo Agt. So., Unity.

I think the severe hardships suffered by farmers during the past year will eventually produce good results, as many important lessons have been learned. Especially do we see the need of a more thorough cultivation and enrichment of the soil, and improvement of low lands by clearing and underdraining—such lands are natural for grass producing. Never before has the value of the grass crop been so felt as now. Every farmer is obliged to reduce the number of farm animals, and as a consequence less manure will be made for the farm.—GRANVILLE FERNALD, Harrison.

Various causes are assigned for the diminutive crop of hay and apples. The hay crop, we think, was injured by the drouth in 1870, and bare ground and freezing roots last winter; and also want of rain and warm weather in the first part of 1871. The snow was unusually thin the past winter—not over 12 inches deep in the woods.—JAMES WALKER, Fryburg.

I have a good illustration of the importance of thorough cultivation and manuring, for I have found that such land felt the drouth but little, and yielded nearly an average crop of hay and other articles. We had one of the highest yields we are subject to, three weeks ago.—Moved probably one hundred and fifty stacks of hay on the marshes in Scarborough and Saco.—SETH SCAMMON, Scarborough.

The more the forests are cleared away, the less rain we may expect; so we need not look for wet seasons as in the years past, until the trees have grown up to supply the place of those which have been cut down and destroyed. There are but very few forest trees left standing on the seaboard from St. John to Portland, islands included. It seems to me that our Legislature should pass some law to encourage the growth of forest trees.—M. L. WILDER, Pembroke.

We have no reason to complain, and on the whole, this season has learned some of us a lesson that we shall not forget—that stock may be kept on much less hay than usual, and that they will be much better for it.—MOSES CHANDLER, East Corinth.

The hay crop is of more importance than all the other crops put together, with us, and the great deficiency is keenly felt by farmers. I saw in the fall several young orchards entirely stripped of their leaves by grasshoppers, with a fair show of fruit that was worthless, never coming to maturity. As a sample of farming in the town of Skowhegan for the year 1871, I will give you a list of my crops: Sowed 35 acres oats, threshed 280 bushels; sowed 4 acres wheat, threshed 30 bushels; sowed 2 1/2 acres barley, totally destroyed; planted 2 1/2 acres corn, not an ear husked; 8 acres potatoes, 600 bushels. Stock is very low, and farmers are buying large quantities of corn and meal to help supply the large deficiency in the hay crop.—JOHN WESTON, Secretary Somerset Agt. So., Skowhegan.

The season from seed time to late in September was very dry; hence there was a poor catch of grass, which in addition to last year's failure and from the same cause, our old fields and pastures show a great lack of vigor; probably in consequence of two dry seasons and the great scarcity of birds (there having been not half the usual quantity of birds in this vicinity the past season), injurious insects of many kinds have been uncommonly numerous and quite destructive. On the whole, the present year is emphatically a hard one for the farmer. Yet our courage is good, and I have no doubt our failures may be the means of developing both ideas and resources, and perhaps in the end may prove to be blessings.—N. R. PIKE, Winthrop.

High cultivation—that is, thorough working of the soil, liberal manuring and deep tillage—is a paid up insurance against all casualties, whether by wet, drouth or even grasshoppers. When that cultivation is conducted with intelligence, with forethought and with a hand guided by the judgment of a mind well stored with knowledge, a liberal harvest is sure to be garnered up. When farmers all do as well as they know, there will be much improvement on present practices; and the time when all will know as much as they ought will only arrive when they give earnest thought, diligent attention and hard study to the business in which they are engaged.—Z. A. GILBERT, East Turner.

**Sheriff's Sale.**  
Oxford, ss.—January 8th, 1872.  
TAKEN on Execution and will be sold at public auction, on the thirteenth day of February, A. D. 1872, at one o'clock in the afternoon, at the office of S. F. Gibson, in Bethel, in said County, all the right which Cyrus H. West, formerly of Bethel, in said County of Oxford, has or had on the fourth day of March, A. D. 1870, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, being the time of the attachment on the original writ, or of releasing the following described real estate situated in Londonderry, and being the same premises which the said Cyrus H. West conveyed to one Lyman Eason, by his deed of mortgage, dated May 7th, 1869, and recorded in the Oxford Registry of Deeds, Book 136, Page 329, to secure the payment of thirteen hundred dollars, and the right in equity which the said Cyrus H. West had, to sell the said premises, to redeem said mortgage premises from the right in equity so sold, as aforesaid, and reference is had to said deed and the record thereof for a description of the premises.

CYRUS WORMELL, Deputy Sheriff.

**COURT BILL.**  
COUNTY OF OXFORD, To A. P. Gordon, Dr.  
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